(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, a subordinate office under Ministry of Human Resource Development, through its seven regional language centres has taken up development programmes in 20 scheduled languages. It has also strengthened the teaching of these languages as mother tongue and as second languages. Since many of the scheduled languages are also the official languages of different States, steps are being taken by both the Central and the State Governments to strengthen the different domains of language use including education, mass media and administration.

Women judges

1455. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is increasing the number of women judges in all the courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the present status regarding ratio of women judges in each court?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India, respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record & Anr. vs. Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of the proposal for appointment of a Judge of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, nonetheless, requested the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, to locate, *inter alia*, women from the Bar who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the Members of the subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court and the State Governments.

(d) A Statement showing the number of women judges in higher judiciary is enclosed.

Statement

Number of women judges in higher judiciary

As on 10.12.2008

Sl.No.	Name of Court	Working strength	No. of women Judges
1	2	3	4
A.	**Supreme Court of India**	21	-
B.	**High Courts**		
1	Allahabad	73	03
2	Andhra Pradesh	30	02
3	Bombay	60	06
4	Calcutta	40	02
5	Chhattisgarh	6	-

1	2	3	4
6	Delhi	39	06
7	Gauhati	20	01
8	Gujarat	30	03
9	Himachal Pradesh	10	-
10	Jammu & Kashmir	11	-
11	Jharkhand	10	02
12	Karnataka	40	02
13	Kerala	26	02
14	Madhya Pradesh	39	04
55	Madras	44	04
16	Orissa	17	01
17	Patna	25	02
18	Punjab & Haryana	48	04
19	Rajasthan	32	-
20	Sikkim	1	-
21	Uttaranchal	9	-
	TOTAL	610	44

Compulsory registration of marriages and divorces

†1456. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Law Commission has recommended to make a legislation for mandatory registration of marriages and divorces;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether any decision to make legislation in this regard has been taken so far by Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Law Commission in its Report No.211 (October 2008), in the light of the directions of the Supreme Court given in the case of Smt. Seema *vs.* Ashwani Kumar [AIR 2006 SC 1158], has recommended for enactment of a central law.

(c) and (d) As the subject matter of marriage and divorce falls under the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India, the aforesaid Report of the Law Commission is being circulated to all State Governments for inviting their views in the matter. However, on the basis of the directions of the Supreme Court in the above mentioned case, the Government has already initiated the action for soliciting the views of State Governments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.